

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Please amend claims 15, 23 and 76, and add new claims 305 to 310 as follows:

15. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said evaluating a degree of importance of each line segment is performed based on an amount by which [an amount of] said image data is changed by removal of a particular line segment.

23. (Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein said generating an intermediate framework comprises locating a vertex at [an] a position intermediate to a vertex position in said original framework and a vertex position determined in said step of determining a position of a vertex after said unnecessary line segment is removed.

76. (Amended) The method [apparatus] of claim 44, wherein said reconfiguring of said textures or pictures applied to the framework comprises determining said new position by interpolation between two points on the textures or pictures which correspond to the unnecessary line segment.

305. (New) A method of approximating an image by decreasing an amount of image data used to create the image, wherein said image data defines a polygonal framework, said framework being composed of line segments drawn between vertices, said method comprising:
evaluating each line segment of said framework;

identifying at least one line segment from said framework which is identified based on said evaluation of each line segment;

determining a position of a new vertex to which vertices composing the identified line segment are integrated;

integrating the vertices composing the identified line segment to the new vertex; and
assigning a weight which is considered in the evaluating step or the identifying step to reflect a user's intention in the approximated image.

306. (New) The method of claim 305, further comprising the steps of:

storing data relating to said integrated vertices; and

using the stored data for forming a model finer than the approximated image.

307. (New) A method for creating data which comprises approximated image data formed by decreasing an amount of original image data, wherein said approximated and original image data define a polygonal framework, said framework being composed of line segments drawn between vertices, said method comprising:

forming said approximated image data from said original image data, wherein the forming step comprises:

evaluating each line segment of said framework;

identifying at least one line segment from said framework which is

identified based on said evaluation of each line segment;

determining a position of a new vertex to which vertices composing the
identified line segment are integrated, and
integrating the vertices composing the identified line segment to the new
vertex; and
storing said approximated image data.

308. (New) The method of claim 307, further comprising the step of storing data relating
said vertices integrated to said new vertex for use in forming a model finer than said
approximated image data by using the stored data relating to said vertices.

309. (New) The method of claim 308, further comprising the step of assigning a weight
which is considered in the evaluating step or the identifying step to reflect a user's intention in the
approximated image.

310. (New) A method of forming a finer model from the data created by the method of
claim 308, wherein the finer model is formed by using said approximated image data and said
data relating said vertices integrated to said new vertex.

STATEMENT

The following statement of the status and support for all changes to the claims in this reissue application is provided to comply with 37 CFR 1.173(c) and to facilitate the Examiner's consideration of this reissue application.

Claims 1 to 304 were issued in the original patent, and remain pending in this reissue application. Claims 15 and 23 have been amended, and new claims 305 to 310 have been added to this reissue application by the foregoing amendment. Thus, claims 1 to 310 are currently pending.

Claim 15 was amended to change the phrase "an amount by which an amount of" into --an amount by which--. This amendment was made to correct the syntax of claim 15 by eliminating the repetitive phrase "an amount of." Support for this amendment is believed to be self-evident from the language of claim 15.

Claim 23 was amended to change the phrase "vertex an a position" into --vertex at a position--. This amendment was made to correct the syntax of claim 23 by changing "an a" into --at a--. Support for this amendment is believed to be self-evident from the language of claim 23.

Claim 76 was amended in the preamble to change the phrase "apparatus of claim 44" into --method of claim 44--, to make the claim 76 consistent with claims 42 and 44.

New claims 305 to 310 have been added to claim additional subject matter to which the Applicants are believed to be entitled. These claims are broader in some aspects, and narrower in some aspects, as compared to the issued claims of the '952 patent. An explanation of

the support in the disclosure of the patent for each element of the new claims 305 to 310 is provided in the following chart:

New Claims Added to Reissue Application	Support in '952 Patent for Claim Changes
<p><u>305. (New) A method of approximating an image by decreasing an amount of image data used to create the image, wherein said image data defines a polygonal framework, said framework being composed of line segments drawn between vertices, said method comprising:</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>evaluating each line segment of said framework;</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>identifying at least one line segment from said framework which is identified based on said evaluation of each line segment;</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>determining a position of a new vertex to which vertices composing the identified line segment are integrated;</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>integrating the vertices composing the identified line segment to the new vertex; and</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>assigning a weight which is considered in the evaluating step or the identifying step to reflect</u></p>	<p>This claim is directed to a method of approximating an image and follows the same claim format as claim 1 of the '952 patent. The preamble is the same as the preamble of claim 1.</p> <p>The "evaluating" step is the same as the evaluating step recited in claim 1 of the '952 patent, except that it does not include the phrase "a degree of importance of." Support for the evaluating step is provided, for example, in column 5, line 63, through column 6, line 59.</p> <p>The "identifying" step is not recited directly in claim 1 of the '952 patent, but is supported within the "removing" step of the '952 patent. Specifically, the "removing" step of the '952 patent includes the phrase "line segment ... which is identified based on said evaluation ... of each line segment." Further support for this limitation is provided, for example, in the specification at column 5, lines 21 to 26, and in claims 42, 156, 184 and 272.</p> <p>The "determining" step is included in claim 1 of the '952 patent. Support for the phrase "new vertex to which vertices composing the identified line segment are integrated" is found, for example, in column 9, lines 12 to 47, and column 12, lines 28 to 41.</p> <p>Support for the "integrating" step is provided, for example, in column 9, lines 12 to 47, and column 12, lines 28 to 41.</p> <p>Support for the step of "assigning a weight ... to reflect a user's intention" is provided, for example,</p>

New Claims Added to Reissue Application	Support in '952 Patent for Claim Changes
<u>a user's intention in the approximated image.</u>	in column 7, lines 11 to 30.
<p><u>306. (New) The method of claim 305, further comprising the steps of:</u> <u>storing data relating to said integrated vertices; and</u> <u>using the stored data for forming a model finer than the approximated image.</u></p>	<p>Support for the step of "storing data" is found, for example, in column 11, lines 43 to 55.</p> <p>Support for the step of "using the stored data" is found, for example, in column 12, lines 20 to 50, and in Figs. 11A to 11C of the drawings. Specifically, an arrow between Figs. 11C and 11B of the drawings indicates using the stored data to form the middle layer model N' which is finer than the approximated image layer N+1.</p>
<p><u>307. (New) A method for creating data which comprises approximated image data formed by decreasing an amount of original image data, wherein said approximated and original image data define a polygonal framework, said framework being composed of line segments drawn between vertices, said method comprising:</u> <u>forming said approximated image data from said original image data, wherein the forming step comprises:</u> <u>evaluating each line segment of said framework;</u> <u>identifying at least one line segment from said framework which is identified based on said evaluation of each line segment;</u> <u>determining a position of a new vertex to which vertices composing the identified line segment are integrated, and</u> <u>integrating the vertices composing the identified line segment to the new vertex; and</u> <u>storing said approximated image data.</u></p>	<p>This new claim is directed to a method of creating data, and has similar limitations to new claim 305. Support for the preamble is provided, for example, in claim 1 of the '952 patent, and in the specification at column 5, lines 34 to 42.</p> <p>The step of "forming" the approximated image data includes substeps of "evaluating," "identifying," "determining," and "integrating." These substeps correspond to the method steps recited in new claim 305, and support for each substep is provided in the '952 patent, as explained above in connection with claim 305.</p> <p>Support for the step of "storing said approximated data" is found, for example, in column 11, lines 43 to 55.</p>

New Claims Added to Reissue Application	Support in '952 Patent for Claim Changes
<p><u>308. (New) The method of claim 307, further comprising the step of storing data relating said vertices integrated to said new vertex for use in forming a model finer than said approximated image data by using the stored data relating to said vertices.</u></p>	<p>Support for the step of "storing data relating said vertices integrated to said new vertex ..." is found, for example, in column 12, lines 20 to 50, and in Figs. 11A to 11C of the drawings. For example, an arrow between Figs. 11C and 11B of the drawings indicates using the stored data to form the middle layer model N' which is finer than the approximated image layer N+1.</p>
<p><u>309. (New) The method of claim 308, further comprising the step of assigning a weight which is considered in the evaluating step or the identifying step to reflect a user's intention in the approximated image.</u></p>	<p>Support for the step of "assigning a weight ... to reflect a user's intention" is provided, for example, in column 7, lines 11 to 30.</p>
<p><u>310. (New) A method of forming a finer model from the data created by the method of claim 308, wherein the finer model is formed by using said approximated image data and said data relating said vertices integrated to said new vertex.</u></p>	<p>Support for the steps of "forming a finer model" and "using said approximated image data and said data relating said vertices integrated to said new vertex" is found, for example, in column 12, lines 20 to 50, and in Figs. 11A to 11C of the drawings. The arrow between Figs. 11C and 11B of the drawings indicates using the approximated image data and data relating to the vertices integrated to form the middle layer model N' which is finer than the approximated image layer N+1.</p>

The specification was also amended to clarify antecedent bases in the description section of the specification as follows: in column 5, line 41, the parenthetical phrase "(i.e., created)" has been added after the term "obtained" to provide antecedent basis for the term "creating" in new claim 307; and in column 5, line 24, the parenthetical phrase "(i.e., identified)" has been added after "selected" to provide antecedent basis for the term "identifying" in new claims 305 and 307. Support for these changes to the specification is found, for example, in the corresponding parts of the specification. All amendments to the specification have been

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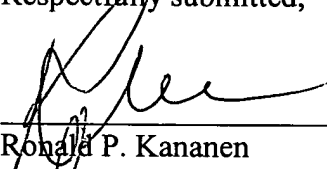
REISSUE APPLICATION

presented in the form of rewritten paragraphs with changes shown by brackets and underlining, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.173(b).

In light of these amendments and the accompanying remarks, prompt and favorable examination of this reissue application is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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